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Mr. David Witherow  
 Head of Monitoring Service  
 British Broadcasting Corporation

Dear David,

Thank you very much for your letter of 20 July. We too are pleased that the funds became available for the second Vienna circuit. The Monitoring Service's timely coverage of the events in Eastern Europe over the past year was definitely a strong factor contributing to the favorable outcome. All of us are particularly grateful for the excellent coverage of the critical Polish developments.

I was glad to learn that the proposed budget cuts for the BBC External Service have not directly affected your operations. Perhaps the unquestionable value of the information being provided, and the high interest in the information on both sides of the Atlantic, will help convince the budget people of the need to avoid cuts in the Monitoring Service. At least I would like to think so.

For our part, FBIS has succeeded in achieving slight growth, based largely on the high priority that our consumers continue to place on the Mideast and South Asia. This recent growth may well turn out to be truly exceptional. I say this because there are now signs that the Reagan Administration may seek broader cuts in the general budget; this could well affect us.

We still have hopes of beginning operations in Swaziland by the end of the year. A few administrative problems remain to be worked out with the State Department before we actually move anyone into Mbabane.

Looking ahead, I very much welcome the opportunity to visit you in October. As you may know, [redacted] planned arrival in London from a trip to the Far East will coincide with our meeting. I believe his participation in the meeting will be of great value to all of us, and assume that this would be agreeable to you.

STAT

Please give my best regards to George, whom I look forward to seeing again, and to Roland Challis, whom I would look forward to meeting.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Director

STAT

cc: Chief, London Bureau, FBIS

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Chief, London Bureau, FBIS

Paul,

Please deliver the attached letter to  
David Witherow.

I look forward to seeing you in October.



Director, FBIS

Attachment

27 August 1981

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DD/FBIS  
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C/LRB  
CMO  
C/AG  
C/PROD  
C/OPS  
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201 FILE  
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